

Commissioning the development of nationally recognised profession-specific training schema and model curricula for enhanced level practice apprenticeships applicable to the individual AHP professions.

Updated Market Interest Event, webinar, 9 November 2022.

Extended submission deadline

Frequently asked questions:

Qu: How do you get access to the Portal?

Answer: The commissioning portal for the provisions of Enhanced Practice Allied Health Professions (AHPs) project can be accessed via the following links:

- Contract finder link:
<https://www.contractsfinder.service.gov.uk/Notice/b3055ca9-e744-4c5e-a983-a00c7050e086>
- Find a tender
<https://www.find-tender.service.gov.uk/Notice/026188-2022>

Qu: Is there any change to the tender specification? Just extending the deadline will not address the issues with the approach.

Answer: No, there is no change to the tender specification following the decision to extend the deadline for submission. There is significant room for flexibility within the commission to encourage innovation and engagement from bidders and the stakeholders.

Qu: Given that we have recently submitted our bid in line with the previous timeline, can you clarify whether we should now revise our bid with the new indicative timeline? As a result of this new timeline, please can you confirm whether there will be opportunity for further clarification questions

Answer: Extending the deadline for submission does mean that those bidders that have already submitted, now have the opportunity to revise and update their bid. But this is not mandatory. Additionally, there is now also a formal extension period for the submissions of questions regarding the commission. This option is open until Friday 11 November 2022.

Qu: Is there only be one bid per profession that is submitted via the professional body?

Answer: No, the commission is open for any organisation that meets the criteria to submit a bid. That may result in multiple bids from different organisations for one profession. Critical to the bids are the commitment to collaborative working with key stakeholders, of which the professional bodies are a key member. The professional bodies are entitled to submit a bid as the lead in their own right, or to show a commitment to collaborate with other bidders.

FAQ's HEE AHP ECP apprenticeship commission

Qu: Can you confirm professional body involvement - will PBs be involved in the bi-weekly partnership meetings? or just receive updates via the regular HEE PB meeting. Thank you.

Answer: The professional bodies will be directly involved in the innovation partnerships delivering of the commission. There will be regular meetings for each of the innovation partnerships throughout the commission. The programme management team will provide an overview of progress to the HEE-led Professional Bodies meeting.

Qu: Are you looking for one institution to lead each occupation pathway?

Answer: This commission requires a lead organisation per profession to coordinate and facilitate the development of the schema and model curricula. Organisations are entitled under the terms of the commission to bid for more than one professional pathway providing they meet the criteria for that profession and commit to running separate innovation partnerships for each of the professions, or professional group. The 13 innovations partnerships will cover these professions/group in scope:

- Physiotherapists
- Occupational Therapists
- Diagnostic Radiographers
- Therapeutic Radiographers
- Dietitians
- Operating Department Practitioners
- Paramedics
- Speech and Language Therapists
- Podiatrists
- Orthoptists
- Prosthetists and Orthotists
- Osteopathy
- Art, Music, and Drama Therapies (a group bid for this commission)

Qu: The concern is regarding the viability of smaller professions if each curriculum is developed separately.

Answer: This commission is a starting point for understanding and developing the need of all the professions in the enhanced practice space. Each profession is valued equally, but each will also have its own nuanced requirements for the innovative outcomes required by this commission. By developing each curriculum separately, a bespoke model of outputs can be achieved, for example to propose a national solution of delivery for a smaller profession rather than a regional, multi-centre solution for one of the larger professions. Where synergies are identified across differing professions there is latitude for partnerships to collaborate to get the best outcomes across more than one profession

Qu: Apprenticeship funding rules will not allow levy to be used for non-mandated academic award. If HEIs offer an award - how will this be funded?

Answer: For a non-mandatory qualification, you can use apprenticeship levy to fund relevant training and qualifications, where there is a clear overlap between the qualification and the knowledge, skills and behaviours needed for the apprenticeship.

Qu: Do you expect the programme to offer academic credits as this is not specified in the standard? Would the level 7 credited learning be included within the apprenticeship funding?

Answer: For those education providers choosing to deliver the Enhanced Clinical Practice (ECP) apprenticeships at level 6 or 7 there will be the opportunity for academic credits to be applied. This could potentially be transferable to a master's programme later. The education providers are responsible for determining the funding for these credits.

FAQ's HEE AHP ECP apprenticeship commission

Qu: How does the HEE Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) work for institutions, if they developed their own extended practice course then they would own the IPR themselves and can support their businesses ongoing.

Answer: This tender is to develop nationally recognised profession specific training schema and model curricula for enhanced level practice apprenticeships applicable to the individual AHP professions. This will enable training providers to deliver high quality AHP profession specific content in ECP apprenticeship programmes. It requires model curricula to be produced per profession to provide core clinical requirements for key specialist areas of practice as agreed by the innovation partnership and critical to the AHP professions development to meet the NHS Long Term Plan.

The IPR stipulated in the commission are associated with the developed training schema and model curricula and will be owned by Health Education England (and any successor bodies). Agreement of this contractual term is a fundamental requirement to any bid and is non-negotiable.

HEE will grant current and future apprenticeship and AHP higher education providers a royalty-free licence to use these enhanced practice schema and model curricula in perpetuity to design their own AHP profession-specific enhanced practice programmes, which will not be covered by the IPRs associated with this commission.

Qu: Why is the money unevenly split when smaller professions have potentially less developed work already in this space?

Answer: This was addressed directly in the first webinar and included reference to the three tiers of funding available for each of the professions. Critical to the release of public money for education programmes is the assurance that HEE can provide around the return of investment and value for money any future programmes deliver. The funding tiers have been based around the size of the professions and the relative workforce size within the NHS in England, and therefore the numbers of clinicians that will likely be impacted in the future. Additionally, there may be a larger body of research and engagement required with the larger professions.

Qu: As an NHS AHP leader how do we get involved and influence this?

Answer: The employers and AHP leader voice is critical to the successful delivery of meaningful outcomes to this commission, outcomes that are both accessible and relevant to health and care services to deliver 21st century care. Successful bidders will need guidance from employers to identify and focus on meaningful profession-specific content based on the needs of the populations served. Employer engagement will take place early in the development of the innovation partnerships

Qu: The enhanced practice apprenticeship standard covers more professions than just AHP's, so where do they go for support in developing ECP routes?

Answer: There are currently multi-professional EP apprenticeships that can be accessed by all professions. This commission is about specific AHP content.

Qu: How will the recording be shared / accessed?

Answer: The recording of the Updated Market Interest webinar on Wednesday 9 November will be shared via an HEE web page in the week starting 14 November 2022. Communications via email and social media will alert all participants to the link address.

Qu: Could you please share a copy of the slide set?

FAQ's HEE AHP ECP apprenticeship commission

Answer: The PowerPoint slide set used during the Updated Market Interest webinar on Wednesday 9 November will be shared via an HEE web page in the week starting 14 November 2022. Communications via email and social media will alert all participants to the link address.

Qu: Due to the nature of the work (consultancy) would you be able to confirm if VAT would be chargeable on the bid for an HEI?

Answer: For this type of education commission VAT is not chargeable.

Qu: There is no area on the submission document to discuss costings. Is it assumed that each HEI will use the maximum amount of funding?

Answer: The successful bidders will be allocated the level of funding as described in the specification relevant to the professional work they have bid for.

Qu: Although delivery is not in scope for this submission when do HEE envisage the finalised EP apprenticeship schema/curricula to start delivery? Would this go out to tender?

Answer: The schema and model curricular will be made available to enhanced practice apprenticeship providers directly after the completion of the commission. HEE would like to see programmes incorporating the professional specific curricula being initiated within the academic year 2023-24, as this is a vital element of workforce development to meet the needs of the Long Term Plan.

Qu: The portal also doesn't seem to have enough areas to submit the required documents. There is no area to submit Appendix E and J. Are these required documents and if so how should they be uploaded?

Answer: It is now not possible to amend the submission sections in the portal. Please ensure all relevant information is submitted in other available sections. The evaluation panel will take this into account.